

CLAIMS

sub A1 1 ~~A method of producing flat glass in which glass batch is melted using burners fired by fuel and oxygen resulting in the formation of foam on the surface of the molten glass, and a burner downstream of such burners producing foam produces a flame which is diffuse, luminescent and impinges on the surface of the glass dispersing said foam.~~

2 ~~A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the flame dispersing the foam is cooler than the surface of the glass it contacts.~~

3 A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the glass is melted using oxy-fuel burners supplying oxygen and fuel which mix on entry to the furnace to burn with concentrated well defined flames.

4 A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the glass is melted using at least four pairs of opposed, optionally staggered oxy-fuel burners, and the resulting foam is dispersed using one or more diffuse luminescent flames in accordance with claim 1.

5 A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein a pair of opposed, optionally staggered, burners are used to provide two opposed, optionally staggered, diffuse luminescent flames which impinge on the surface of the glass to disperse the foam.

sub A2 6 ~~An improved method of producing flat glass wherein the glass is melted and formed into a continuous ribbon wherein the improvement comprises melting the glass using burners fired by fuel and oxygen resulting in formation of foam on the surface of the molten glass and dispersing the foam by directing a diffuse, luminescent flame onto the surface of the glass carrying the foam.~~

7 ~~A float glass making furnace including a melting zone into which glass-making components are fed and a plurality of firing zones including burners for melting the components, wherein at least one of the firing zones includes a first port through~~

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which a fuel is introduced into the furnace and a second port through which oxygen is introduced into the furnace, the first and second ports being spaced apart from one another such that mixing of the fuel and of the oxygen occurs in a region remote from the ports and the flame produced by the mixture of the fuel and the oxygen is diffuse, luminescent and impinges on the surface of the glass.

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